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APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 67 asked by Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 22nd December 1949, page 719, supra.]

Press Note, dated 9th June 1949.

[Permanent assignment of agricultural land—Ban lifted.]

The Government have decided to lift the ban on the permanent assignment of agricultural land which was imposed in 1943 pending the formulation of their land assignment policy. The policy has now been settled and its main features are explained below. The following order of preference will be followed in assigning land at the disposal of the Government :—

(i) Political sufferers.

(ii) Ex-servicemen of the Second World War including I.N.A. personnel, who do not possess 5 acres of wet or 10 acres of dry land.

(iii) Landless poor persons including Harijans and Backward Classes.

2. Land will be assigned subject to the following conditions :—

(i) Land will be assigned free of market value to the above classes of persons but the cost of buildings, wells, trees, etc., standing on the land and the cost of survey stones and demarcation charges, if any, will be collected from the assignee.

(ii) Land assigned should not be sold or otherwise alienated for a period of ten years. Any breach of this condition will render the land liable to resumption.

(iii) The assignee should bring the land under cultivation within a period of three years from the date of assignment on pain of resumption.

(iv) No land tax will be collected for the first three years. Water rate will, however, be charged if the lands are irrigated with water taken from a Government source of supply.

(v) Land assigned should be cultivated by the assignee himself or members of his family or with hired labour or both.

3. The Government have carefully considered the question how lands under sivoijama occupation, i.e., unauthorized occupation by encroachers should be treated. They see no reason why as a matter of general policy any preferential

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treatment should be accorded to such unauthorized occupants of Government lands and propose to issue orders for the eviction of such people. This will, however, be subject to the following qualifications :—

(i) Landless poor persons (i.e., persons not having more than 5 acres of wet or 10 acres of dry land) in unauthorized occupation of Government lands will not be evicted. If their occupation is otherwise free from objection, such persons will be assigned the lands under their occupation. If they are in occupation of more than 5 acres of wet or 10 acres of dry land or if they have land of their own which together with the Government land under their unauthorized occupation exceeds these limits, they will be evicted from the extent in excess of these limits.

(ii) Unobjectionable encroachments on small extents of Government land, i.e., 25 cents of wet or 50 cents of dry land will not be evicted. Such lands may be assigned or given on lease to the occupant as may be considered suitable by the Collector.

(iii) Unauthorized occupants of Government lands who have spent a material amount of labour and money on reclamation or on improvement of the lands will be allowed to continue in occupation. Such lands will either be assigned to them or leased to them for a period long enough to enable them to recover their investment, provided such occupation is otherwise free from objection.

4. Government lands close to village sites will up to an extent of 5 acres be set apart for communal purposes like playground, school, etc., and not be assigned to anyone. Communal porambokes not required for the purpose for which they have been set apart or for any other communal purpose will be assigned if there are no other lands available for assignment. Reserved forests which have no forest growth and which in the opinion of forest department officials may be disreserved will also be assigned wherever necessary.

5. Compact blocks of land will ordinarily be assigned only to co-operative societies consisting of persons of the categories mentioned in paragraph 1 above.